

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks wherein Claims 1, 12, and 14 are amended. Currently, Claims 1-8 and 12-14 are amended.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. As a result, Applicants are amending Claim 14 to remove these informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6-8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,186,246 to *Muutonen et al.*

Applicants express gratitude for the courtesies extended Applicants' attorney during the recent interview. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that certain amendments to Claims 1 and 12 would define the present invention over the applied reference to *Muutonen et al.* In particular, Applicants suggested adding the language "said first and second axial contact surfaces being perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the drilling machine". The Examiner agreed that this clarifying amendment would define the present invention over the applied art.

This amendment merely clarifies what is meant by "axial contact surfaces", which has already been addressed by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the amendment be entered. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues


pertaining to this application, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted at the number indicated below.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,

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